

Filed for intro on 02/01/95
Senate Bill _____
By _____

House Bill No.HJR0045
By Kisber

A RESOLUTION to honor Richard M. Riebeling upon his meritorious service to Tennessee as the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary governmental leaders who have contributed significantly to the unprecedented economic growth and prosperity that Tennessee is presently experiencing; and

WHEREAS, by means of his astute and diligent service as Commissioner of Economic and Community Development, Richard M. Riebeling has distinguished himself as a government official richly deserving of the public's trust and confidence; and

WHEREAS, as the proficient steward of the department of state government charged with promoting the growth and expansion of business, Richard Riebeling has worked in cooperation with citizens from all walks of life to assure success in this vital area; and

WHEREAS, Commissioner Riebeling has coordinated his department's outstanding efforts with the Governor, General Assembly, other state departments and numerous local government leaders across the state to promote economic growth in each of Tennessee's 95 counties; and

WHEREAS, he set a new standard of cooperation with the General Assembly, and of accessibility to the business community and citizens across Tennessee, and established a benchmark by which future commissioners will be measured; and

WHEREAS, his strong and earnest leadership has reaped huge rewards for our state as evidenced by the fact that Tennessee has the strongest economy in the Southeast according to the March 1994 issue of Biz magazine, a National Dow Jones publication; and

WHEREAS, during Commissioner Riebeling's illustrious tenure, Tennessee's economy has also been designated as the seventh best in the nation according to U.S. News and World Report and our state has been ranked third in the nation for best location for new business by the Plant Sites and Parks Reader Survey conducted in March 1994; and

WHEREAS, the research of the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Statistics exhibits that Tennessee's per capita income has grown faster than any state in the nation during the past decade, that employment in Tennessee is growing at a rate nearly 50% greater than the nation as a whole, and that statewide unemployment has been below the national average for over three years; and

WHEREAS, for the first three quarters of 1994, manufacturing and selected service industry growth increased 24% over the same period in 1993; job growth increased 37%; and the number of new projects and expansion increased 36% over the first three quarters of 1993; and

WHEREAS, since July 1993, the number of chronically depressed counties in Tennessee has been reduced from 18 to 11; this decrease equals the largest annual reduction since the state began keeping such statistics seven years ago; and

WHEREAS, during the first week of November 1994, Tennessee enjoyed its best week in history for economic growth with the establishment of four major new plants announced across the state; the four plants will bring investments totaling \$265 million and create up to 3,020 jobs; and

WHEREAS, these four new plants will enhance economic growth in each of the state's grand divisions, with one plant being established in West Tennessee, one in the Midstate area; and two in East Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, in addition to this legion of impressive accomplishments, Commissioner Riebeling has worked diligently with the Governor, the Department of Revenue, and the Joint Committee on Business Taxes during his tenure to prepare legislative initiatives relative to revising the Jobs Tax Credit Act and expanding the definition of industrial machinery as it relates to the excise tax credit; and

WHEREAS, before being named to the important post of Commissioner of Economic and Community Development by Governor McWherter in August 1993, Richard Riebeling was a principal in the Nashville law firm of Stokes and Bartholomew; he is a graduate in journalism from the University of Missouri and received his law degree from Vanderbilt University; and

WHEREAS, prior to and during law school, he served with acumen and alacrity as the administrative assistant to the then Mayor of Nashville Richard Fulton; earlier, he had served as a reporter with several newspapers, including the Nashville Banner;

WHEREAS, his exemplary professional career has focused in the areas of municipal law, tax-exempt finance and governmental relations, and included chairing his law firm's Governmental/Administrative Practice Group; and

WHEREAS, realizing that citizenship entails many responsibilities as well as privileges, Richard Riebeling has been actively involved in many civic and charitable enterprises; he serves on the boards of Cumberland Museums, United Way of Middle Tennessee and the Leadership Nashville Alumni Association, as well as the Saint Thomas Hospital Board of Councilors and the Tennessee Enterprise Zone Management Board; and

WHEREAS, despite his numerous professional and civic accomplishments and the accolades his excellence have earned him, Commissioner Riebeling remains most appreciative

of the love and companionship he shares with his wife Kyle Gunter Riebeling, and their three children, Russell, Haley and Michael; and

WHEREAS, Richard M. Riebeling has distinguished himself as a consummate professional and outstanding leader of people in state government, and his sterling efforts to promote economic growth and prosperity in Tennessee should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Richard M. Riebeling upon his meritorious service to Tennessee as the Commissioner of Economic and Community Development; salute his many productive endeavors to bring Tennessee to the forefront economically; and applaud his selfless service to improving the quality of life for his fellow Tennesseans.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we extend to Commissioner Riebeling our best wishes for every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Commissioner Riebeling as a token of our esteem

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